
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MEETING MINUTES

4/14/09

The Board of Selectmen met in the Town Hall, Joseph F. Bilotta Meeting Room as scheduled with Thomas Alonzo, Paula Bertram, Steven M. deBettencourt, Thomas Mason, Dave Matthews and CAFO Kerry Speidel present. Meeting opened at 7:03 P.M. Chair turned meeting over to the Finance Committee for their presentation of the Public Hearing. Members of the Finance Committee Brian Lafond, Martha McDonald, Lars Widstrand, Marilyn Stokes, Barbara Reynolds, David Rodgers and John Male present.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Chair expressed appreciation to the Finance Committee and the CAFO for all their work on the 2010 budget.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

APPOINTMENTS

1. 7:00 P.M. – Finance Committee Public Hearing FY2010 Budget – Brian reviewed the process that the Finance Committee has gone through in preparation of the 2010 budget. Noted spending and hiring freeze actions taken during FY2009. Unfilled positions will remain unfilled for FY2010 on the town side, may be up to 5 unfilled positions on the school side. Much of the school's requests will be able to be funded through the stimulus monies. Turned meeting over to the CAFO, presented the attached PowerPoint Presentation. Noted that due to the uncertainties presenting the differences that were presented at the end of February and the last Board of Selectmen presentation. Capital improvements plan is not being funded through free cash as we have previously done, need to address this moving forward.

Dave Rodgers questioned status of the Tri-town project. Per CAFO received \$350,000 in FY2008 which has been placed in a reserve account, one time pot of money that can be used broadly, not necessary to tie to project. The project has received all of their approvals and are on shovel ready lists with the state. Biggest issue is they have not been able to attain the tax credits in a sufficient amount. We are seeing that these tax credits are becoming available and hoping that they will be the recipient of these to move the project forward, nothing on the municipal level holding the project up.

Dave noted changes that have occurred over the past few years for capital expenditures and noted that we're not doing things that we need to and at some point in time we'll have to face up to this. CAFO noted that some of the previous spending has sometime included borrowing, such as the ½ million dollars for the comprehensive wastewater management plan (CWMP). Kerry noted the unfunded liability of the Worcester Regional Retirement System, town receives an assessment each year; two components, what has been realized due to retirements and the unfunded liability which is to be fully funded by 2028. Have to pay each year, pay as you go (retirements) and to fund the unfunded liability. Town of Lunenburg does not pay any portion to the retirement system, employees pay a percentage to the retirement system from 2% to 9% and for any amount of wages over \$30,000 they pay an additional 2%. Theory is anyone hired after 1986 to fully fund their retirement. Also noted GASB45, other post employment benefits generally around health insurance. The Town is required to have an actuarial on the books for 2009 and this has been completed and ready to present to Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee. Some communities have sought special legislation to establish funds.

Discussed Chapter 90 money that we receive and pales as to what we need to do in the Town of Lunenburg, the schools; regional versus not and the wastewater management project. Near term costs are only part of what we have to be concerned with and what the town is going to be facing.

John Male noted the towns stabilization fund and the state stabilization fund and the uncertainty with respect to the state, we know that we are not going to see anything within the towns stabilization fund. The numbers we've seen tonight will in no doubt change before we get to town meeting in 2 ½ weeks.

Closed Public Hearing @ 8:04 P.M. recessed briefly. Reconvened @ 8:10 P.M.

CURRENT BUSINESS

1. CAFO Updates

- GOVERNOR PATRICK WILL USE FEDERAL RECOVERY FUNDS, FURLOUGHS, LAYOFFS, AND CUTS TO CLOSE BUDGET GAP
- Noted that the Lake Shirley Dam inspection is going to be addressed within the next couple of weeks.
- Steve questioned the number of street lights that are still out, Unitil should be maintaining these lights, we're paying for them and it's ridiculous as we don't know what we're paying for. Kerry noted problems that we are having with them (Unitil) as far as the changes in the pole numbers etc., would like to have the locations identified of the poles. Steve noted that in the past the police department has been utilized to identify the lights that are out, will note tonight on his way home the five poles along the way. Per CAFO, the police department does do this on the third shift and noted that we are having a lot of problems trying to

identify the pole locations, we have a significant email trail documenting our ongoing issues with Unitil. The way we are being billed by Unitil for the street lights and usage is pretty constant, yet our monthly billed has varied as much as \$1,200 for street lights. Town doesn't say per KWH; still need to know how were charged, whether it's per pole. Have put a hold on paying Unitil's bill until we can get this solved. Significant variance from February to February, months within the same season, nothing makes sense in their billing and would expect some details on how we're being charged.

- Chair noted Dave Blatt from PTO would like to hold a fundraiser on Memorial Day Weekend, a community yard sale. To be held at the old primary school, outside or in the case of inclement weather inside. Next week Mr. Blatt will come before the board to bring formally before the board. The CAFO will speak with the Department of Public Works Director regarding this request.
- CAFO noted the storm debris bid has gone out, there is a pre-bid conference scheduled for tomorrow at Town Hall, 1:00 PM, bids are due April 27th with an anticipated award within two weeks. Expected clean-up is to take 60 days.

2. Minutes - None

Warrants - #21P 09,4/14/09 - \$631,532.31 and #55 09, 4/14/09 - \$536,785.31 reviewed and signed.

3. Action File Issues – None

4. Sign Town Meeting / Election Warrants – 5 copies of each signed.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Committee Updates

- Dave update that the Advisory Board to the School Committee will be presenting their findings if we don't regionalize our school district at their meeting tomorrow evening @ 7:00 PM.
- Tom M., PACC meeting has been rescheduled to next Monday night. High School students will be running the DVD of tonight's presentation and times will be announced on the town's bulletin board.
- Paula, Sewer Commission has a workshop with land use board's tomorrow evening. Also will be holding a Public Hearing will be televised on Tuesday the 28th, scheduled to be televised. Planning Board's Public Hearing is scheduled for April 27th and will attempt to have this televised as well.
- Tom A., Bimonthly Planning Group meeting with Representative Benson is scheduled for next Tuesday and would like any concerns that the board may want to have brought forward, please submit to Chair.

2. Town Meeting Articles – No action.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS

1. Chair would like to have a list of vacancies to announce at next board meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Contracts -

2. Pending Litigations -

Being no further business board voted unanimously to adjourn Regular Session at 8:34 P.M. entered into Executive Session not to return to Regular Session

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Williams, Chief Administrative Assistant
Board of Selectmen